

Message Text

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UNCLAS STRASBOURG 232

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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, FR.
SUBJECT: CHIRAC SPEECH IN STRASBOURG

1. JACQUES CHIRAC SPOKE IN STRASBOURG DEC. 17 BEFORE A LARGE AND FRIENDLY CROWD OF SOME 3500 PEOPLE. INTRODUCED BY MAYOR PIERRE PFLIMLIN WHO SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO TAKE PART IN MEETING WHICH DEFENDS LIBERTY, CHIRAC S SPEECH CONSISTED OF STRONG ATTACK AGAINST SOCIALO-COMMUNISTS AND AN EMOTIONAL INVITATION FOR ALL PARTS OF MAJORITY TO COME OUT OF ITS LETHARGY AND TO DEFEND LIBERTY AND DEMOCRACY AGAINST THE ASSAULTS OF THE LEFT.

2. THERE WAS PLENTY OF GAULLIST LANGUAGE - CHIRAC CLAIMING PARTY IS PARTY OF ALL FRENCH PEOPLE AND IS NEITHER RIGHT NOR LEFT . CHIRAC WARNED SOCIALISTS NO PARTY HAS EVER MADE AN ALLIANCE WITH THE COMMUNISTS AND SURVIVED. STATING THAT DICTATORSHIP OF LEFT OR RIGHT EQUALLY INTOLERABLE, CHIRAC CALLED FOR ABOLITION OF PRIVILEGES RESULTING FROM MONEY, POSITION, OR KNOWLEDGE. SONS OF WORKERS AND DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE MUST HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO ALL PARTS OF FRENCH LIFE - AND CHIRAC LAUNCHED
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INTO DEFENSE AND DESCRIPTION OF THE OLD GAULLIST IDEA OF WORKER PARTICIPATION IN ENTERPRISE - A PART OF THE SPEECH RECEIVED WITH NOTICEABLY LESS WARMTH THAN THE REST.

3. ON INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN QUESTIONS, CHIRAC, AFTER PRAISING STRASBOURG AS A EUROPEAN CAPITAL, SAID HIS PARTY WILL

WAIT UNTIL DECISION OF CONSEIL D ETAT ON CONSTITUTIONALITY OF DIRECT ELECTION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT BEFORE SUPPORTING SUCH A PROCEDURE. HE WARNED THAT PARLIAMENT WHETHER ELECTED OR NOT MUST STAY WITHIN FIXED LIMITS AND MUST NOT TRESPASS ON SOVEREIGNTY OF MEMBER STATES. EUROPE, HE SAID MUST BE CONFEDERAL OR NOT AT ALL. IN MEANTIME, THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES MUST BE MADE TO WORK BETTER, PARTICULARLY THE C.A.P. - (STRONG APPLAUSE AT THAT POINT) .

4. COMMENT : CHIRAC S SPEECH NOTABLE FOR ATTEMPT TO REUNITE ALL GAULLISTS LEFT AND RIGHT UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP AND TO RALLY ALL THE MAJORITY TO FIGHT AGAINST SOCIALO-COMMUNISTS . SPEECH WHICH WAS LOADED WITH REFERENCES TO DE GAULLE AND POMPIDOU UNSURPRISINGLY IGNORED PRESENT PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, EXCEPT FOR ONE REFERENCE, CLOSELY FOLLOWING THOSE ON BRINGING THE MAJORITY OUT OF ITS LETHARGY, EXHORTING GISCARD TO WEIGH IN WITH ALL HIS WEIGHT FOR LIBERTY.

5. IT IS ALSO INTERESTING THAT IN SPITE OF UDR SWIPING AT GISCARD FOR HIS ATTEMPTS TO ATTRACT LEFT, CHIRAC MADE OPEN AND STRONG GESTURE TOWARD THE LEFT BOTH IN WARNING OF DANGERS OF COMMUNISM AND CALLING FOR WORKER PARTICIPATION IN ENTERPRISE. SPEECH ITSELF - WHILE LONG - WAS DELIVERED IN VIGOROUS MANNER AND WAS WARMLY RECEIVED, ALTHOUGH NOT WITH UNBOUNDED ENTHUSIASM. PRESENCE OF ALL THE GAULLIST DEPUTIES, PLUS MANY OTHER NOTABLES SUCH AS PFLIMLIN, SHOW SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THREAT FROM LEFT IS REGARDED AND WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT CHIRAC. END COMMENT.MOHLER

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